

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An attachment system for assembling a frame comprising:

a first frame member;

a first set of mounting brackets coupled to the first frame member, the mounting brackets including a mounting flange and a tapered section, the tapered section having a raised portion and a mating surface, wherein the mating surfaces on the first set of mounting brackets taper outwardly from the first frame member from top to bottom;

a second frame member; and

a second set of mounting brackets coupled to the second frame member, the mounting brackets including a mounting flange and a tapered section, the tapered section having a raised portion and a mating surface, wherein the mating surfaces on the second set of mounting brackets and taper outwardly from the second frame member from bottom to top;

wherein the first and second sets of mounting brackets are positioned on their respective frame members so that the raised portions and the mating surfaces of the first set of mounting brackets is aligned with the raised portions and the mating surfaces of the second set of mounting brackets so that the brackets are slidably engagable to provide an interlocking fit, and wherein a portion of the mating surfaces of the first and second sets of mounting brackets contacts the first and second frame members.

2. (Original) The attachment system of claim 1, wherein the first and second sets of mounting brackets include a left and a right mounting bracket.

3. (Original) The attachment system of claim 2, wherein the left and right mounting brackets are mirror images of one another.

4. (Original) The attachment system of claim 3, wherein the mating surfaces on the first set of mounting brackets project outwardly.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Amended) The attachment system of claim 4, wherein the mating surfaces on the second set of mounting brackets project inwardly.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A frame attachment system for assembling furniture, comprising:

a pair of side panels;

a first set of mounting brackets coupled to each of said side panels; the mounting brackets including a mounting flange and a tapered section, the tapered section having a raised portion and a mating surface, wherein a portion of the mating surface contacts the side panels;

a seat portion having first and second sides; and

a second set of mounting brackets coupled to each of the first and second sides of the seat portion; the mounting brackets including a mounting flange and a tapered section, the tapered section having a raised portion and a mating surface,

wherein a portion of the mating surface contacts the first and second sides of the seat portion;

wherein the first set of mounting brackets and the second set of mounting brackets are positioned with respect to each other so that the raised portions and the mating surfaces of the first set of mounting brackets is aligned with the raised portions and the mating surfaces of the second set of mounting brackets so that the brackets are slidably engagable to provide an interlocking fit, and wherein the first and second sets of mounting brackets include a left and right mounting brackets, the left and right mounting brackets being mirror images of one another.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Amended) The frame attachment system of claim 8, wherein the mating surfaces on the first set of mounting brackets project inwardly.

12. (Previously Amended) The frame attachment system of claim 11, wherein the mating surfaces on the first set of mounting brackets taper from bottom to top.

13. (Original) The frame attachment system of claim 12, wherein the mating surfaces on the second set of mounting brackets project outwardly.

14. (Previously Amended) The frame attachment system of claim 13, wherein the mating surfaces on the second set of mounting brackets taper from top to bottom.

15. (Currently Amended) A frame attachment system for assembling furniture, comprising:

a pair of side panels;

a first means for attaching said side panels coupled to each of said side panels; the first means for attaching including a mounting flange and a tapered section, the tapered section having a raised portion and a mating surface, wherein the mating surfaces on first means for attaching taper outwardly from bottom to top and wherein a portion of the mating surface of said first means for attaching said side panels contacts each of said side panels;

a seat portion having first and second sides and a second means for attaching each of the first and second sides of the seat portion; the second means for attaching including a mounting flange and a tapered section, the tapered section having a raised portion and a mating surface, wherein the mating surfaces on second means for attaching taper outwardly from the seat portion from top to bottom and wherein a portion of the mating surfaces of said second means for attaching each of the first and second sides of the seat portion contacts each of the first and second sides of the seat portion;

wherein the first means for attaching and the second means for attaching are positioned where the mating surfaces are slidably engaged and wherein the engagement of the first and second attachment means provide an interlocking fit.

16. (Previously Amended) The frame attachment system of claim 15, wherein each of the first and second means for attaching include a left and a right mounting bracket.

17. (Original) The frame attachment system of claim 16, wherein the left and right mounting brackets are mirror images of one another.

18. (Original) The frame attachment system of claim 17, wherein the mating surfaces on first attachment means project inwardly.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Amended) The frame attachment system of claim 18, wherein the mating surfaces on second attachment means project outwardly.

21. (Cancelled)